



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Teenagers Sentenced to Prison For Halloween Shooting

____ WASHINGTON - Justin Hinson, 19, and Charles Hunter, 17, were sentenced today to prison for shooting a 16-year-old victim at point-blank range in the face and about the body on Halloween 2009, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. Hinson was sentenced to a 16-year term and Hunter was sentenced to a 13-year term by the Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck.

Both defendants pled guilty in July in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to assault with intent to kill while armed. Hunter, who was 16 at the time of the offense, was charged as an adult by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. A third person was charged as a juvenile in the case.

The evidence developed by the Government established that on the night of October 31, 2009, in Southeast Washington, Hinson, Hunter, and the third individual surrounded the victim and backed him against a wall, because they mistakenly thought he was associated with other individuals with whom the defendants had a beef. All three of the attackers took out handguns, and Hunter shot the victim at point-blank range in the face. As the victim balled up on the ground, all three assailants continued to fire, hitting the victim four times, in his face, ribs, arm, and thigh. When the victim heard his attackers running away, he made his way to his mother's apartment. The victim was bleeding profusely and could not breathe out of his nose by the time he reached home and awoke his mother. She called an ambulance as the victim passed out.

The victim was taken to Howard University Hospital, where he stayed for a week. He suffered permanent kidney damage and nerve damage to his leg, and part of his intestines had to be removed. The bullets remain in the victim's body, and the bullet in his head is lodged in the back of his neck near a nerve. Another bullet is lodged in his intestine.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of MPD Investigator Jose Nieves-Campos. He also commended the work of Paralegal Antoinette Sakamsa. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Sroka, who investigated and indicted the case.

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